



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
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AUG 29 2008

F/SER32:EF

Michael Gray, Ph.D.
Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332-0405

Dear Dr. Gray:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your request for authorization to receive head tissues and intact heads from non-endangered cetaceans. These tissues will be used to develop an ultrasonic, non-invasive system for determining the elastic properties of cetacean head tissues. The information provided about your research in your written correspondence is sufficient to satisfy the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requirements for transfer of marine mammal parts. The MMPA's implementing regulations at 50 CFR 216.37 (enclosed) authorize the transfer of marine mammal parts if:

- (1) The person/agency transferring the part does not receive payment for the part;
- (2) the marine mammal part is transferred for scientific research purposes, curation in a professionally accredited scientific collection, or educational objectives; and
- (3) an accession number, authorized or assigned by (NMFS), is affixed to the marine mammal part. In most cases, this is the field number assigned by the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

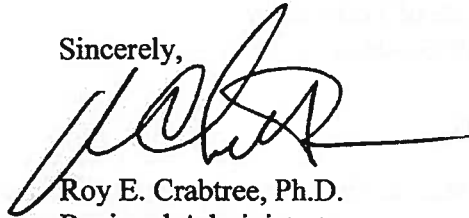
Pursuant to 50 CFR 216.22 and 216.37, this letter authorizes you to receive the heads from no more than 20 non-endangered cetaceans through August 25, 2013. You may contact any member of the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network to arrange for collection, preservation, and transfer of specimens (see the enclosed list of Stranding Network participants in the Southeast Region). Please contact the appropriate NMFS Regional Marine Mammal Stranding Program Coordinator (enclosed) to locate Stranding Network participants in another region. Transfer of parts must be coordinated with the Network organization to ensure that no specimen is taken prematurely and to ensure accurate disposition of the parts. Although payment is not allowed for marine mammal parts, the Network organization may assess processing and/or shipping fees. Should you acquire more samples than needed for your scientific research, you must contact the providing Network organization to determine whether the samples should be returned for scientific study or destroyed. Notice of that determination must also be given to this office.



Your acceptance of these marine mammal tissues/bones absolves NMFS and the Stranding Network of liability for any human health or safety risks, known or unknown, from exposure to these parts.

The NMFS Southeast Region requires that you acknowledge the cooperating Stranding Network participants and NMFS in any publications or other reports resulting from the use of the transferred material or data. Please send copies of these reports to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office for our files and for distribution to the Stranding Network. Reports and questions regarding this authorization should be directed to Erin Fougères at (727) 824-5323 or erin.fougeres@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy E. Crabtree', written over a horizontal line.

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: F/PR2 – J. Whaley, T. Rowles
F/SEC3 – B. Mase-Guthrie